[29th March 1961

within the purview of the Penal Code. I would also request hon. Members to bring it to the notice of the Government whenever they find that there is violation of the law.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Cannot the Publicity Department give a helping hand to the Ministers in these matters?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : They do. That is what I said before.

Match factories

* 217 Q.—SRI K. M. RAMASAMY GOUNDER (on behalf of DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) the number of match factories started in the Lower Bhavani Pilot Project area during 1959–60; and

(b) whether they have been closed and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise.

Firewood

10-40 a.m. * 218 Q.—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation has been received from the firewood merchants of Hamilton Bridge in Mylapore, Madras, about the rise in prices of firewood and charcoal; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Sir, are the Government aware that the price of firewood has risen from Rs. 1–14–0 to Rs. 2–8–0 per gundu after the rains in November, and was it brought to the notice of the Government, though not by the firewood merchants but by others, that on account of the inability of the boatmen to ply boats in the Buckingham Canal the price of firewood has risen to such a high figure?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The statistics which the Government have with them do confirm what the hon. Member mentions about the rising price of firewood. Certainly merchants from Park Town—not from Hamilton Bridge—made representations. They made the suggestion that the railway authorities should be addressed to provide more wagons and also that the Buckingham Canal should be repaired. All this is being looked into.